# LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The following list, if entered, replaces all prior versions of the claims.


1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein

the unique session identifier is created by one of a plurality of network

access servers; and

the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than

one of the network access servers from creating a same unique

session identifier; and

providing the unique session identifier to an Authentication, Authorization, and

Accounting (AAA) module, wherein

each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA

processing from the AAA module.


2. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the creating the unique session identifier further comprises appending a unique

identifier-to a local session identifier, and

the unique identifier is associated with the one of the network access servers.


3. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 2, wherein:

the unique identifier is an IP address of the one of the network access servers.


4. (Original) The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.


5. (Previously Presented) The method recited in Claim 1, wherein:

creating a unique session identifier further comprises creating a unique session

identifier for each of the network access servers.

6. (Previously Presented) A system, comprising:

a network access server

wherein the network access server is configured to generate a unique session
identifier for a user;

wherein the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more
than one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same
unique session identifier,

wherein the plurality of network access servers include the network access server;

wherein the network access server is configured to provide the unique session
identifier to an AAA module; and

wherein the AAA module performs AAA processing for each of the plurality of
network access servers.

7. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

the network access server is associated with an IP address; and

the unique session identifier comprises the IP address.

8. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

the plurality of network access servers;

wherein each of the plurality of network access servers is configured to generate a
corresponding unique session identifier.

9. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

an off-load server, the off-load server being coupled to receive the unique session
identifier from the network access server.

10. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the
AAA module.

11. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is configured to provide the unique session identifier to the AAA module, and

the AAA module is configured to perform port counting.

12. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, further comprising:

the AAA module, the AAA module being further configured to receive the unique session identifier from the network access server.

13. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 6, wherein:

the network access server is further configured to generate the unique session identifier by appending an IP address of the network access server to a local session identifier.

14. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, wherein:

the off-load server is further configured to generate a start record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the start record with the unique session identifier; and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the start record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing.

15. (Previously Presented) The system recited in Claim 9, further wherein:

the off-load server is further configured to generate a stop record, the off-load server being further configured to associate the stop record with the unique session identifier; and

the off-load server is further configured to provide the stop record to the AAA module that provides for performing accounting processing.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

means for creating a unique session identifier for a user, wherein the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same unique session identifier; and

means for providing the unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA
processing from the AAA module.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for
appending a unique identifier associated with a network access server to a
local session identifier.

18. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 17 wherein:
the unique identifier is an IP address.

19. (Original) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, further comprising:
means for providing the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus recited in Claim 16, wherein:
means for creating a unique session identifier further comprises means for
creating a unique session identifier for each of the network access devices.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, encoded in computer
readable storage media, comprising:
a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to create a
unique session identifier for a user, wherein
the unique session identifier is created in a manner that prevents more than
one of a plurality of network access servers from creating a same
unique session identifier; and
a second set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to
provide the unique session identifier to an AAA module, wherein
each of the network access servers is configured to request AAA
processing from the AAA module.

Serial No.: 10/032,628

22. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:

> the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to append a unique identifier associated with one of the network access servers to a local session identifier.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:

> the unique identifier is an IP address.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, further comprising:

> a third set of instructions, executable on a computer system configured to provide the unique session identifier to an off-load server.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 21, encoded in computer readable storage media, wherein:

> the first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, is further configured to create a unique session identifier for each of the network access servers.

Serial No.: 10/032,628